

TOLL SCENARIOS AND OPERATIONS COSTS TACOMA NARROWS BRIDGE

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
February 2007 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Prepared By: David Pope, Tacoma Narrows Bridge Toll Systems Manager
Reviewed and Approved By: Linea Laird, TNB Project Manager & Greg Selstead,
Director, Tolling Operations

PURPOSE:

Discuss various Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB) toll rate scenarios to allow future toll rate setting by the Transportation Commission.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Information and Possible Action by Commissioners.

BACKGROUND:

TNB will start tolling operations when the new bridge opens to traffic. The current scheduled date for opening is August 1, 2007.

By statute, the Transportation Commission is responsible for setting the toll rates for the TNB. At the January Commission meeting, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) made recommendations to the Commission regarding toll rates and tolling policy. With these recommendations, the Commission has requested that the Department provide additional information regarding the recommended tolling rates and policy provided by the CAC.

DISCUSSION:

WSDOT with the assistance of Wilbur Smith Associates, has developed analysis that reflects alternative forecasts for three bridge opening dates (August thru October) and three levels of Electronic Toll Collection participation (Base, High and Very High). The analysis, using these variables, has resulted in a toll rate recommendation for consideration by the Commission.

This analysis also provides additional detail of the Operation & Maintenance Costs associated with tolling operations for TNB. This detail includes the subcategories Management Costs; Toll Systems Operations; Bridge Maintenance; Incident Response, Security and Enforcement; Insurance; Renewal & Replacement; and Deferred Sales Tax.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the analysis, WSDOT recommends an ETC, *Good To Go!* rate of \$2.00 and cash toll rate of \$3.00. With the given assumptions of this analysis, WSDOT believes the feasibility of this rate applies through June 2008.

For further information, contact: David Pope, WSDOT Toll Systems & Services Manager, 253-534-4673.